

From: [Soscia, Marylou](#)
To: [Somers, Elaine](#)
Cc: [Reichgott, Christine](#)
Subject: EPA Correspondence with the Corps on Cormorant EIS
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 9:41:08 AM
Attachments: [14-0032-COE Response to FEIS Comments.pdf](#)

Dear Elaine:

I was notified by the Corps yesterday that Bob Winters, US Army Corps of Engineers, received an email from you on April 22nd requesting further information in response to your EPA comments on the Columbia River Cormorant EIS. The attached EPA letter indicates our willingness to acknowledge the adaptive management approach that the Corps is taking on this work effort, working very closely with Columbia River Tribal Governments, US Fish and Wildlife Service and others. The Corps was quite concerned about your email and had indicated that there was a need to elevate this issue within EPA possibly to Dennis McLerran. I assured them that elevation was not necessary that I would communicate with you about the commitment of the Corps, FWS, Columbia River Tribes and others to the adaptive management approach for the upcoming action.

I have attached the letter we sent to the Corps. Please let me know if you need any further information.

I also understand that the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which is led by Tribal leaders from the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Warm Springs Tribes, was also very concerned about our EIS comment letter and is sending a letter this week to Dennis McLerran with their concerns.

Mary Lou

Mary Lou Soscia | Columbia River Coordinator | US EPA
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-----Original Message-----

From: Reichgott, Christine
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Casey, Joyce E NWP
Cc: Matson, Jeffrey T NWP; Lear, Gayle HQ @ NWD; Winters, Robert NWP; Brice, Kevin J NWP; Ponganis, David J SES NWD; Carlsen, Elisa NWP; Allnutt, David; Soscia, Marylou; Opalski, Dan; McLerran, Dennis
Subject: RE: (UNCLASSIFIED)

Hello Ms. Casey,

My response to your letter of April 3rd, 2015 is attached. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Teena Reichgott
Manager, Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs
EPA Region 10 ETPA-202-3
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140
206-553-1601

-----Original Message-----

From: Casey, Joyce E NWP [<mailto:Joyce.E.Casey@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 4:48 PM
To: Reichgott, Christine

Cc: Matson, Jeffrey T NWP; Lear, Gayle HQ @ NWD; Winters, Robert NWP; Brice, Kevin J NWP; Ponganis, David J SES NWD; Carlsen, Elisa NWP
Subject: (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Ms. Reichgott, Attached please find my response to your comments raised to the Corps concerning the plan for management of Double-crested cormorants at East Sand Island.

Joyce E. Casey

Chief, Environmental Resources Branch

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE



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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 6, 2015

Ms. Joyce E. Casey
Chief, Environmental Resources Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District, Portland
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Dear Ms. Casey:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2015, responding to EPA's March 16, 2015 comments on the Corps' final EIS on the Double-crested Cormorant (DCCO) Management Plan. Your letter and our recent conversation on April 2, 2015 provided clarity on the Corps' commitment to use adaptive management as an integral part of managing the East Sand Island DCCO population. We are supportive of the adaptive management program that will be undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps that will use results from comprehensive monitoring to achieve East Sand Island colony size objectives while ensuring conservation of western population of DCCOs. We understand that the most recent data regarding both populations, factors affecting them, and behavioral responses of DCCO and non-target species will be used to inform annual issuance of the USFWS depredation permit.

We also understand that the Corps is committed to carrying out specific responsibilities under the Federal Columbia River Power System 2014 Supplemental Biological Opinion that includes the reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) to manage DCCO predation on salmonids. We also recognize that the Corps does not have responsibility for many of the EPA suggestions in our March 16, 2015, comment letter. The EPA recognizes that many of these suggestions, particularly those that focus on fishery management, such as hatcheries and catch restrictions, come under the responsibility of other Columbia River entities and forums.

The EPA understands that the FCRPS Biological Opinion RPA requirements and the adaptive management framework that is integral to the selected plan provide a framework intended to assure that cormorant populations will be carefully monitored, and management will be tailored to ensure reductions in juvenile salmonid predation and the health of the cormorant population. We recognize the challenges inherent in complex ecosystem management and appreciate the opportunity to share information and perspectives. Please feel free to contact me at 206-553-1601 or reichgott.christine@epa.gov if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit